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mersed in the mycelium; and in the second, superficial and thickly scattered, globose, 180—200 μ in diameter, at first orange-yellow, then black, surrounded with a circle of simple hyaline, straight, rather rigid, acicular appendages, 140—150 x 5—10 μ , attenuated towards the apex, subobtuse, or uncinate-curved, and finally deciduous. Texture of the perithecia membranaceo-coriaceous, dark and opaque. Asci elliptical-ovate, 90—100 x 30—35 μ , obtusely rounded above, abruptly contracted below into a thick, short pedicel, 2-spored, without paraphyses; sporidia hyaline, elliptical, 30—32 x 18—20 μ , rounded at the ends, granulose.

The description here quoted does not give the number of the appendages nor of the asci. Having received from Spegazzini specimens of the fungus on leaves of *Celtis Tala*, I have carefully examined them, and compared them with the specimens of *Uncinula polychæta*, B. & C., in *Rav. Fungi*, Car. IV, No. 68, which is certainly the same thing. I find in both the specimens mentioned the number of appendages on several perithecia examined to be certainly 250, by actual count, and probably more, as in places they were matted together so that it was difficult to count them accurately. They are thickest in the middle, and attenuated towards each end, the lower half being distinctly roughened and the tips incurved with a single coil. The asci are about forty in number and, according to my measurement, about 75—80 x 25—30 μ , each containing two sporidia, 25—30 x 15—18 μ . The statement in *Grevillea*, copied into the *Sylloge*, that the number of appendages is about 28, is evidently a typographical mistake for 228. The length of the appendages is also less than the diameter of the perithecia. There is certainly no reason that I can see for making of this fungus a new genus separate from *Uncinula*.

J. B. E.

CRYPTOGAMIC BOTANY OF A FLORIDA LOG.--PAPER 4.

BY W. W. CALKINS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

In the depths of the hummock, where I had often wandered in quest of Nature's wonders, I came suddenly upon a fallen giant,—a decayed *Quercus*. Having learned by experience that the "unexpected happens," and sometimes most happily, too, I determined to "size up" the botanical riches here before me. I was not disappointed, as the results show. Beginning with lichens, here were in beautiful fruit *Cladonia fimbriata*, *C. pulchella*, *Lecanora punicea*, *Cladonia rangiferina*, *Thelotrema glaucescens*, *T. Domingensis*. The fungi were rich and abundant. *Polyporus galvus*, Fr., and also what has passed for *Polyporus scruposus*, Fr., and *P. ferruginosus*, Fr., but the two latter, having been carefully examined by Mr. Ellis, must be included in the synonymy of the first. *Polyporus licnoides*, Mont., fine but scarce. *P. arcularius*, Fr., growing in the rotten bark. *Hypochnus rubrocinctus*, Ehrb., *Hypoxylon tinctor*, Berk., *Stereum complicatum*, Fr., and to close the list, a beautiful *Eutypa*, not

yet identified. By this time my buggy was loaded, and, though I by no means considered the log exhausted, I marked the locality, in my mind, and wended my way home, more than ever impressed with a sense of the little I know and how much there is to learn, even from a log. Here were fifteen species obtained with no great effort in a very short time. Two are also tropical, perhaps more. But one lesson is that nothing, however common, should be neglected. I omit *musci*—several species.

SKETCH OF CURTIS.

BY WM. R. DUDLEY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

It is certainly an interesting and important fact in the history of Cryptogamic Botany in America that its two most eminent followers, both northern men by birth, should have been called by their professional duties, as clergymen, to the great state of North Carolina, early in their careers. This state is probably unsurpassed in America in the variety of its plant forms. Its position is central, and the variation of soil and climate remarkable. From the broad, low savannahs to the subalpine summits of "The Black Dome," "The Roan," "The Grandfather," and their richly-forested slopes and valleys, would indeed have been the chosen field for this pioneer work, if choice, instead of accident, had guided these men there. The work of Schweinitz, from 1812 to 1818, and Curtis, from 1830 to 1867—the date of the publication, by the latter, of the *CATALOGUE OF THE INDIGENOUS AND NATURALIZED PLANTS OF NORTH CAROLINA*,—resulted in the careful determination, preservation and cataloguing of nearly 2,400 species of fungi alone. Indeed, it is estimated that nearly two thirds of these were new to science. It must be remembered that this was mainly accomplished during the first great period of our national existence, viz.: before the civil war, when the science of botany did not receive much general encouragement from the public or from the schools or colleges, especially in the South. This happy outcome of circumstances, as well as his high regard for the distinguished attainments of Rev. Dr. Curtis, evidently led Dr. Gray, in Silliman's *Journal*, in 1868, to urge "our American Mycologist" to prepare a *MANUAL OF THE FUNGI OF THE U. S.*, saying that, from its central position, North Carolina must contain nearly all the species of fungi of the Atlantic States, and unless he did write such a work, a vast amount of valuable knowledge of the forms of this group would be lost to the world, eventually. Unfortunately, such a work was never written. Had it been, what an impulse would have been given to the study of fungi! However, it is clear that a great work in this field was done by the men of the past generation, and the material used by them is still available in herbariums, where it can be consulted by their successors. But there has been danger that the history of the labors of these indefatigable explorers and writers, among whom we reckon Dr. Curtis as